

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

VOL. XXII. No. 15.] LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1812. [Price 1s.

449]

[450

Winchester, 7th Oct. 1812.

My readers, when they have read the following Address, will, I am sure, think it natural and right, that I should devote the whole of the time between this and next Tuesday (the day of Nomination) to the important duty which I am about to perform. It has always been my opinion, that the people cannot reasonably be blamed for making a bad choice, if no other is presented to them. It has also always been my opinion, that every man should labour for the public weal in that way which he thinks most likely to prove efficacious, whether it may comport with his taste, or interest, or not. And, it being my firm conviction, that an earnest endeavour to supplant the late Members for the county in which I live is the way in which I can employ a week or two with the greatest probability of doing service to the public, I have resolved in that way to employ them, and to devote my whole time and attention to that object.

To the Freeholders of the County of Southampton.

Gentlemen,

That House of Commons, who voted that they would not inquire into a direct charge against some of their own Members for trafficking in Seats in their own Assembly; that House of Commons, who voted their approbation of the Walcheren Expedition; that House of Commons, who voted that Bank Notes are still equal in value to Guineas in the estimation of the people; that House of Commons, who have added upwards of Seventy Millions to the National Debt, and who have added nearly one-fourth to the amount of our Taxes; that House of Commons being, thank God, now no more, and an opportunity being afforded you of choosing as your Representatives men who have not concurred in such votes, I offer myself to you in that capacity. On the day of Nomination, at Winchester, I propose to do myself the honour of stating to you more fully my opinions and my views; but, I shall not omit even this occa-

sion of assuring you, that, I will never, either by myself, or by any dependent on me, receive in any shape, or under any name, a single farthing of the people's money. I am actuated by no motive of vanity or ambition. I think it my duty to endeavour to assist in saving my native country from that total ruin which hangs over it; and, the tender of my services to you is made in the performance of that sacred duty.

I am, Gentlemen, your faithful friend,

WILLIAM COBBETT.

Botley, October 1, 1812.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.

A numerous meeting of the Electors of Westminster, "Friends of Purity of Election," was on Monday held, pursuant to public advertisement, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, for the purpose of considering of proper persons to be returned to Parliament as Representatives of the City of Westminster.

Mr. STURCH having been called to the chair, addressed the assembly as follows:—"Gentlemen Electors, the advertisement which I now hold in my hand, and which has been published in several of the newspapers, sufficiently expresses the intention with which this meeting has been called, by a few of those persons who advocated the cause of Parliamentary Reform at the last election.—(Mr. Sturch here read the advertisement).—Gentlemen, it will be seen by the terms of this notice, that this was not intended to be a meeting of the Electors in general, but only of that description of Electors who are friends to the Purity of Election—the friends of corruption and undue influence are not to be understood as having been invited; and if, therefore, there be any person present who is not friendly to reform—if there be any person within hearing who wishes that corruption may be able to keep its ground—who prefers the wide-wasting desolation of war, the government of incapable Ministers, and the

ENGLISH LIBERTY OF THE PRESS,

As illustrated in the Prosecution and Punishment of

WILLIAM COBBETT.

417]

[448

In order that my countrymen and that the world may not be deceived, duped, and cheated upon this subject, I, WILLIAM COBBETT, of Botley, in Hampshire, put upon record the following facts; to wit: That, on the 24th June, 1809, the following article was published in a London news-paper, called the *COURIER*:—"The Mutiny amongst the *LO-CAL MILITIA*, which broke out at Ely, was *fortunately* suppressed on Wednesday by the *arrival* of four squadrons of the *GERMAN LEGION CAVALRY* from Bury, under the *command* of General Auckland. Five of the *ringleaders* were tried by a Court-Martial, and *sentenced* to receive 500 lashes each, part of which *punishment* they received on Wednesday, and *a part* was remitted. *A stoppage* for their *knap-sacks* was the ground of the complaint that *excited* this mutinous spirit, which occasioned *the men* to surround their officers, and demand *what* they deemed their arrears. The first *division* of the German Legion halted yesterday *at Newmarket* on their return to Bury."—That, on the 1st July, 1809, I published, in the *Political Register*, an article censuring, in the strongest terms, these proceedings; that, for so doing, the Attorney General prosecuted, as seditious libellers, and by Ex-Officio Information, me, and also my printer, my publisher, and one of the principal retailers of the *Political Register*; that I was brought to trial on the 15th June, 1810, and was, by a Special Jury, that is to say, by 12 men out of 48 appointed by the Master of the Crown Office, found guilty; that, on the 20th of the same month, I was compelled to give bail for my appearance to receive judgment; and that, as I came up from Botley (to which place I had returned to my family and my farm on the evening of the 15th), a Tipstaff went down from London in order to seize me, personally; that, on the 9th of July, 1810, I, together with my printer, publisher, and the news-man, were brought into the Court of King's Bench to receive judgment; that the three former were sentenced to be imprisoned for some months in the King's Bench prison; that I was sentenced to be imprisoned for two years in Newgate, the great receptacle for malefactors, and the front of which is the scene of numerous hangings in the course of every year; that the part of the prison in which I was sentenced to be confined is sometimes inhabited by felons, that felons were actually in it at the time I entered it; that one man was taken out of it to be transported in about 48 hours after I was put into the same yard with him; and that it is the place of confinement for men guilty of unnatural crimes, of whom there are four in it at this time; that, besides this imprisonment, I was sentenced to pay a thousand pounds *TO THE KING*, and to give security for my good behaviour for seven years, myself in the sum of 3,000 pounds, and

two sureties in the sum of 1,000 pounds each; that the whole of this sentence has been executed upon me, that I have been imprisoned the two years, have paid the thousand pounds *TO THE KING*, and have given the bail, Timothy Brown and Peter Walker, Esqrs. being my sureties; that the Attorney General was Sir Vicary Gibbs, the Judge who sat at the trial Lord Ellenborough, the four Judges who sat at passing sentence Ellenborough, Grose, Le Blanc, and Bailey; and that the jurors were, Thomas Rhodes of Hampstead Road, John Davis of Southampton Place, James Ellis of Tottenham Court Road, John Richards of Bayswater, Thomas Marsham of Baker Street, Robert Heathcote of High Street Marylebone, John Mand of York Place Marylebone, George Bagster of Church Terrace Pancras, Thomas Taylor of Red Lion Square, David Deane of St. John Street, William Palmer of Upper Street Islington, Henry Favre of Pall Mall; that the Prime Ministers during the time were Spencer Perceval, until he was shot by John Bellingham, and after that Robert B. Jenkinson, Earl of Liverpool; that the prosecution and sentence took place in the reign of King George the Third, and that, he having become insane during my imprisonment, the 1,000 pounds was paid to his son, the Prince Regent, in his behalf; that, during my imprisonment, I wrote and published 364 Essays and Letters upon political subjects; that, during the same time, I was visited by persons from 197 cities and towns, many of them as a sort of deputies from Societies or Clubs; that, at the expiration of my imprisonment, on the 9th of July, 1812, a great dinner was given in London for the purpose of receiving me, at which dinner upwards of 600 persons were present, and at which Sir Francis Burdett presided; that dinners and other parties were held on the same occasion in many other places in England; that, on my way home, I was received at Alton, the first town in Hampshire, with the ringing of the Church bells; that a respectable company met me and gave me a dinner at Winchester; that I was drawn from more than the distance of a mile into Botley by the people; that, upon my arrival in the village, I found all the people assembled to receive me; that I concluded the day by explaining to them the cause of my imprisonment, and by giving them clear notions respecting the flogging of the Local Militia-men at Ely, and respecting the employment of German Troops; and, finally, which is more than a compensation for my losses and all my sufferings, I am in perfect health and strength, and, though I must, for the sake of six children, feel the diminution that has been made in my property (thinking it right in me to decline the offer of a subscription), I have the consolation to see growing up three sons, upon whose hearts, I trust, all these facts will be engraven.

WM. COBBETT.

Botley, July 23, 1812.

Published by R. BAGSHAW, Brydges-Street, Covent-Garden.

LONDON: Printed by J. McCreery, Black-Horse-Court, Fleet-street.

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

VOL. XXII. No. 15.] LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1812. [Price 1s.

449]

Winchester, 7th Oct. 1812.

My readers, when they have read the following Address, will, I am sure, think it natural and right, that I should devote the whole of the time between this and next Tuesday (the day of Nomination) to the important duty which I am about to perform. It has always been my opinion, that the people cannot reasonably be blamed for making a bad choice, if no other is presented to them. It has also always been my opinion, that every man should labour for the public weal in that way which he thinks most likely to prove efficacious, whether it may comport with his taste, or interest, or not. And, it being my firm conviction, that an earnest endeavour to supplant the late Members for the county in which I live is the way in which I can employ a week or two with the greatest probability of doing service to the public, I have resolved in that way to employ them, and to devote my whole time and attention to that object.

To the Freeholders of the County of Southampton.

Gentlemen,

That House of Commons, who voted that they would not inquire into a direct charge against some of their own Members for trafficking in Seats in their own Assembly; that House of Commons, who voted their approbation of the Walcheren Expedition; that House of Commons, who voted that Bank Notes are still equal in value to Guineas in the estimation of the people; that House of Commons, who have added upwards of Seventy Millions to the National Debt, and who have added nearly one-fourth to the amount of our Taxes; that House of Commons being, thank God, now no more, and an opportunity being afforded you of choosing as your Representatives men who have not concurred in such votes, I offer myself to you in that capacity. On the day of Nomination, at Winchester, I propose to do myself the honour of stating to you more fully my opinions and my views; but, I shall not omit even this occa-

[450

sion of assuring you, that, I will never, either by myself, or by any dependent on me, receive in any shape, or under any name, a single farthing of the people's money. I am actuated by no motive of vanity or ambition. I think it my duty to endeavour to assist in saving my native country from that total ruin which hangs over it; and, the tender of my services to you is made in the performance of that sacred duty.

I am, Gentlemen, your faithful friend,

WILLIAM COBBETT.

Botley, October 1, 1812.

WESTMINSTER ELECTION.

A numerous meeting of the Electors of Westminster, "Friends of Purity of Election," was on Monday held, pursuant to public advertisement, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, for the purpose of considering of proper persons to be returned to Parliament as Representatives of the City of Westminster.

Mr. STURCH having been called to the chair, addressed the assembly as follows:—"Gentlemen Electors, the advertisement which I now hold in my hand, and which has been published in several of the newspapers, sufficiently expresses the intention with which this meeting has been called, by a few of those persons who advocated the cause of Parliamentary Reform at the last election.—(Mr. Sturch here read the advertisement).—Gentlemen, it will be seen by the terms of this notice, that this was not intended to be a meeting of the Electors in general, but only of that description of Electors who are friends to the Purity of Election—the friends of corruption and undue influence are not to be understood as having been invited; and if, therefore, there be any person present who is not friendly to reform—if there be any person within hearing who wishes that corruption may be able to keep its ground—who prefers the wide-wasting desolation of war, the government of incapable Ministers, and the

consequent decay of trade and prosperity, to liberty, security, and peace—it may be proper to remind such person, that he comes without being invited.—(*Applause.*)

—Gentlemen, I persuade myself, that all those who are now assembled, are of a very different description indeed. I persuade myself, that, while you are all zealously attached to the Constitution, every heart beats high with the love of freedom and independence (*applause*)—which constitutes the very life and soul of purity of election. I am convinced, that all who are now assembled, are clearly of opinion, that, if this country, in its present deplorable state of distress, is to be saved at all, it must be by the adoption of those principles which were manfully supported by the Electors during the last struggle.—(*Applause.*)—

Gentlemen, it is the pleasure of His Majesty's Ministers, at this time, to indulge us with an opportunity of electing our Representatives for the ensuing Parliament, which they might, if they pleased, have put off for a year longer, and which they would have put off, if they thought it would have answered certain purposes, which it is not now necessary for me to state. We do not exercise this invaluable right so often as we are entitled to do. By the words of ancient statutes, and from the very reason of the thing, we should exercise the right of election "once in the year, and oftener, if need be."—(*Applause.*)—These are the express words of the statute. But by an Act of modern times, which cannot be too much reprobated—which is, in fact, little short of treason against the liberties and constitution of the country, we are restrained in the exercise of that right, which is granted but once in seven years, unless, as in the present instance, we are permitted to make use of it, by the special grace and favour of His Majesty's Ministers.—(*Laughter.*)—This, however, is no reason at all why we should neglect a duty, when it devolves on us. The duty we have to perform on the present occasion, is to select two gentlemen to represent us in Parliament, whom we shall have every reason to believe will be the firm supporters of that portion of liberty which we now enjoy, and the pledged advocates of those rights and privileges of which we have been forcibly and unjustly deprived. It is not for me to dictate what you are to do. I have only to state what I apprehend to be the general principle on which we are to proceed. There is one thing to which I must not omit calling your attention, that

all elections, like other things, are necessarily attended with expense. It is true, that the expense has lately been very much reduced. At the last election, no disbursements were made, except those which were absolutely necessary. By a late Act of Parliament, the expenses to the candidates are clearly defined, and what cannot be demanded is also pointed out. According to that Act it appears, that even when there is no contest whatever, we cannot walk over the course, without incurring an expense of 800*l.* This we consider as a great hardship and one, small as the sum may seem, that ought to be remedied; and I hope to see the day when this obnoxious act will be repealed. The debt thus incurred must fall either on the *electors* or the *elected*. Now, our principle has been to send our Representatives to Parliament free of expense—which is the true principle of the constitution; because no man should have the pretence to say, that, having purchased his interest in Parliament, he was obliged to reimburse himself by selling his vote to the Minister. And, if we were to abandon that principle for one moment, we should have undone all our work—obliterated, and, he might add, annihilated, the great and glorious example which, five years ago, we set to the electors of Great Britain and Ireland—and which is doing so much good in various parts of the United Kingdom.—I hold it, therefore, necessary, that this principle should be steadily adhered to, and that the sum of 800*l.* should be subscribed. When I consider the smallness of the sum, contrasted with the great number of electors, I conceive it very easy to defray the expense, by each elector advancing a trifle towards that object; and I hope that no man, who prides himself on being an elector, who feels the dignity of his situation, and desires to be fairly represented in Parliament, will refuse to put down his mite towards the creation of a proper fund. As most of you are, like myself, men of business, I will not detain you much longer. I will not relate what you yourselves did five years ago—it is fresh in your recollection. You then demanded and obtained the service of a man, exactly of the description I noticed in the beginning of this address—the firm defender and supporter of those rights and liberties which we still possess, and the strenuous advocate for a restoration of those which we have lost. Perhaps it may be said, that being placed by you in the situation of chairman, I ought to speak impartially; but I should

be unworthy of the honour you have done me, if I affected to conceal the first wish of my heart. I sincerely hope, that of all the Electors, who, five years ago, gave their vote in favour of the Honourable Baronet, there is not one now living who will not be ready, if it should be again necessary, to come forward on this occasion, and do the same. And to them, I trust, I may be able to add thousands of others, who, since that time, have had an opportunity of examining and scrutinizing the parliamentary conduct of Sir Francis Burdett—(*applause*)—and must have seen in it all that could render a Representative respectable, or endear him to the hearts of his Constituents. He has displayed extraordinary talents, incorruptible integrity, undaunted courage, and the most sound constitutional principles—(*Applause*).—I understand, that, with regard to your last Representative, Sir Francis Burdett, he does not come forward, soliciting your votes, as a candidate. I am told, for I have had no communication with Sir Francis, that he considers it the duty of the Electors to look out for, and support, such persons as they think best calculated to represent them, and not the business of Candidates to push themselves personally forward. I will not take upon me to say whether this is or is not a correct principle; but, if Sir Francis Burdett conceives it to be right, he, as an honest man, must act upon it. The same feeling does not appear to sway the Noble Lord (Cochrane), who, for the purpose of proving his political principles, has written two letters, which have come into the hands of Mr. Brooks, the gentleman so well known as the treasurer of the former election. Those letters were addressed “To the Gentlemen composing the Committee for promoting the Purity of Election,” and contained an explanation of his Lordship’s political opinions and sentiments, which, I suppose, the meeting would wish to have read. Having stated the object in view, if any gentleman has a proposition to make, I shall be very happy to hear him.”

Mr. HARRIS then rose and said, having undertaken to submit certain Resolutions to the Meeting, he was under the necessity of throwing himself on their indulgence, and trusted that they would not impute to presumption, his thus coming forward on so important an occasion. He felt himself placed in a most awkward situation, in addressing them, when there were so many older, wiser, and better men in the room. He would, however, endeavour to acquit

himself to the satisfaction of the assembly, whom he could assure, that he had undertaken the task for the benefit of his country, and not from any private aim or gratification of his own. They would, in a very few days, be called on to elect two persons to represent them in the ensuing Parliament, which was at all times a very important duty, but particularly so at the present period, when we were threatened by an overwhelming taxation at home, and by an implacable enemy abroad. At such a time they were imperatively called on to examine scrupulously those persons whom they sent to Parliament—for there, and there only, the evil can be cured. It was stated by their worthy Chairman, with great force and propriety, that the persons elected ought not to be loaded with expense. This position was perfectly correct; for if Members of Parliament impaired their fortunes in expensive contests, what could their Constituents expect, but that they would endeavour to pay themselves out of the pockets of the people, by selling themselves to Ministers? They should not, therefore, send their representatives in on such conditions, but perfectly free, to prevent the smallest excuse for a dereliction of their duty. They certainly possessed the ability, and they had exercised it, of sending their Representatives into Parliament without putting them to any expense. He doubted not that the Electors of Westminster would, on this occasion, set a good example to the country in general.—Books were then open in the room, and some money had already been subscribed; and he trusted every man, according to his means, would endeavour to further the great object they had in view. Mr. Harris then proceeded to read the Resolutions.

1st, That the Election of Members of Parliament ought to be conducted according to the principles of old English Freedom, which declare that Elections should be free and without corruption.

2d, That the City of Westminster will not disappoint the expectation of the Country, but, following up the great example it has set, return its Representatives to Parliament free of expense.

3d, That Subscriptions be entered into to defray the expense of the ensuing Election, and that Samuel Brooks, Esq. be Treasurer of the Fund; to the support of which it is the bounden duty of every Elector and friend to purity of Election to contribute.

It was almost unnecessary for him to say a word in praise of the individual to whom the next Resolution referred. His conduct in Parliament had been such as justly entitled him to their unanimous choice and support.

4th, That Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. having with unshaken firmness invariably expressed the sense of the people in evil report and good report, and lent his best assistance to restore to them those inestimable blessings of the Constitution, of which they have been deprived, by a long series of fraud and hypocrisy, by endeavouring to obtain for them a full, fair, and free representation in Parliament, and maintaining the right to *Trial by Jury* in all cases whatever, even at the cost of PERSONAL IMPRISONMENT, is a fit and proper person to be again returned one of the Representatives in Parliament for the City of Westminster.—(Loud and reiterated applause).

Before he read the 5th Resolution, which related to Lord Cochrane, he thought it would be proper that the two letters, explanatory of his Lordship's political principles, should be read, which was accordingly done by Mr. Richter.

The first was dated the 28th of Sept. 1812, and set forth that his Lordship had never used the trust reposed in him to his private advantage, or to promote the interests of those with whom he was connected by the bonds of consanguinity or friendship. It then proceeded to point out the good effects which would have resulted from a compliance with his Lordship's motion (soon after he had been returned to Parliament) for a list of the places and pensions held by Members of the House of Commons and their relations. It next adverted to his Lordship's exertions to carry into effect the provisions of the Acts relative to prize concerns, by which two-thirds of the navy now employed would be rendered more efficient than the whole at present is. And concluded by attributing his Lordship's absence from the House of Commons solely to ill health. The second letter is dated Sept. 30. In this his Lordship pledges himself to vote, on all occasions, for Parliamentary Reform, and to support every measure for the abolition of sinecures. With respect to the Catholic Question, his Lordship says—"So long as its (the Catholic Religion's) inquisitorial auricular confession, and its principles, so favourable to despotism, prevailed on the Continent, I was

hostile to it; but, I am now inclined to grant the Claims of the Catholics of Ireland, provided they are content to receive the privileges of Englishmen, and to relinquish their predilection in favour of the jurisdiction of the Pope, which they seem anxious to establish in that part of these kingdoms."—On the subject of a Naval Officer being a Representative for Westminster, he observes—"One half of the taxes levied on the people of England is disbursed on the navy—for objects which the ability of all the civil Members of Parliament cannot detect to be erroneous, from the inspection of accounts," and thence infers the necessity of having persons acquainted with nautical affairs in the House of Commons. And, lastly, on the subject of flogging, he says—"I am no advocate for flogging; although I maintain, from a knowledge of facts, that your fleets could not be governed at present if the power did not exist—a power which will cease to be abused when Parliamentary influence shall cease to place fools and boys in command."

After the applause excited by his Lordship's letters had subsided, Mr. Harris read the two following Resolutions:—

5th, That the Right Hon. Lord Cochrane, by his manly support of Sir Francis Burdett, and his prompt attention to the wishes of the Electors at the time of his Commitment to the Tower by the late House of Commons; for his assertion of the Right of the People to Trial by Jury, and having pledged himself to assist in procuring a full, fair, and free representation of the People in Parliament, the correction of the gross and scandalous corruptions and abuses in various departments of the Government, and the enjoyment of religious liberty, is a fit and proper person to represent this City in Parliament.

6th, That the Resolutions of this Meeting be communicated to Sir F. Burdett and Lord Cochrane by the Chairman.

The Resolutions were then put by the Chairman, *seriatim*. The four first were carried unanimously;—on the fifth being proposed,

Major CARTWRIGHT rose and spoke to the following effect:—"I am not aware of any necessity that I shall be under of opposing the resolution declaratory of the fitness of Lord Cochrane to be one of your Representatives; but notwithstanding the many pledges given to this Meeting, I think we want from him one other pledge, of more importance than all the others—



in one of those pledges to which I allude, he makes mention of certain plans, suggested by him for the annoyance of the enemy, and which plans it is probable will require the personal attendance abroad of his Lordship to carry into execution. At a crisis like the present, highly as I estimate the zeal, the courage, the enthusiasm, the character, the professional skill of my Lord Cochrane, I can by no means consent to dispense with the services of the Noble Lord in Parliament; because it is my opinion that, in the next Parliament, the struggle is to be made, that shall decide whether our political liberties shall stand or fall. It is, therefore, of great importance to know if Lord Cochrane would leave England in case he should be ordered abroad by the Minister, for I hope you are all convinced that the great battle, that battle on which your *all* depends, is to be fought, not in the Mediterranean, but in St. Stephen's chapel.—(*Applause.*) I am not preaching doctrines that I do not practise. I was a naval officer, and in the American war I refused to serve, and threw up my commission, because I considered that service incompatible with my other duties.—(*Applause.*)—Should Lord Cochrane be returned as one of your representatives, I have two powerful reasons for objecting to his being employed on foreign service. The first is, that the Minister would gain a very able officer to assist in the prosecution of this *rotten-borough war*; and that he would by the same stroke lop off one of the arms of representation in Westminster.—(*Applause.*)—Should the Noble Lord be in the room, I hope he will appear, and give the meeting an answer on the subject.—(*Applause.*)—[Lord C. did not appear, and the Major proceeded]—I have not been much in the political world of late; but I am informed that gentlemen from distant counties have been invited to become Candidates for the City of Westminster (Mr. Sturch the Chairman said *No!*)—Well, then, I have but one other observation to make, and that renders me still more anxious to see Lord Cochrane in the room. A relation of his Lordship lately called on me, and informed me that a frigate was fitting out to carry his Lordship to the Mediterranean, as his health was so precarious that he could not possibly live in England. The Major then moved a Resolution—

“That Lord Cochrane be called on to pledge himself not to quit England on any

consideration, in case of being elected to Parliament as one of the Representatives of Westminster.”

Mr. WALKER seconded the Resolution.

Mr. RICHARDSON rose to oppose the Resolution. He said, he did not presume to stand before them as an orator.—(*Laughs and hisses.*)—Gentlemen might oppose his being heard; but though he could not display much oratory, he could speak his opinions.—(*Interruption.*)—The resolution of the venerable Mover goes to snatch a man from a profession, which, however honourable in itself, he has exalted!—to rob him of that glory which awaits him, and which he has so dearly earned!—to destroy the fair prospects of fame and fortune, which have led him through a laborious life of peril and privation—nay, more, it calls on him to disgrace himself, by abandoning a profession in which the Noble Lord has reaped so much honour himself, and has contributed, in so large a proportion, to the glory of the nation! He proceeded to observe, that such a pledge would be an inducement to Ministers to give the Noble Lord a ship, as soon as he was returned to Parliament, so that his Lordship would be obliged to resign his *commission* or his *seat*, and thus perhaps be prevented from serving his country in either capacity.

Mr. WALKER supported the motion. If there were two duties to be performed, one abroad and one at home; the latter, he conceived, would be paramount. It was very properly stated by the Gentleman who preceded him, that Westminster ought not to be deprived of one of its arms. They must all recollect the upright conduct of Lord Cochrane in the House of Commons, in opposing the insult offered to the Electors of Westminster, in the person of their other Representative; but what would have been the consequence if he had not been on the spot? Who, then, could have spoken their sentiments?

Mr. GIBBON opposed the motion—If, as Lord Cochrane stated, there was a system of corruption in every department of the State, and if, by going abroad, he might not only serve his country against the enemy, but devise means of rectifying abuses in the profession which he so greatly ornamented, he could see no just reason why he should be deprived of his seat in Parliament. It would be most preposterous to find fault with him under such circumstances—when, perhaps, he was achieving a greater benefit than he could

have effected even in the House of Commons.

Major Cartwright's motion was then put and negatived. After which the fifth Resolution was carried almost unanimously.

On the sixth Resolution being proposed—

Major CARTWRIGHT said, that, previous to the question being put, he wished to move a Resolution, which, if carried, should be inserted before that which they had just heard read. Although the motion he had before submitted was negatived, he flattered himself that what he was about to propose would meet their approbation. It had been carried, that Lord Cochrane was a proper person to represent them in Parliament; but it certainly could not be their intention, if his Lordship were elected, and afterwards sent out of the country, to do without one of their Representatives. He should, therefore, propose—

“That Lord Cochrane, if elected, be requested to pledge himself to resign his seat in the Commons' House of Parliament, by accepting of the Chiltern Hundreds, in case he should be ordered out of the kingdom in his naval capacity.”

Mr. GIBBON said, Lord Cochrane had shewn, in his address, that, even abroad, he could be of essential benefit to the country. He would, therefore, oppose a Resolution, which narrowed and confined his exertions. If they were to fetter men in this manner, they would ultimately find no candidate willing to serve them. Would it be just, if the great Lord Nelson, or Marquis Wellington, held seats in the House of Commons, that, while they were pursuing the interests of their country abroad, they should be deprived of the honour of a seat in the Parliament at home?

Mr. WALKER supported the motion.

Major CARTWRIGHT said, that the Gentleman (Mr. Gibbon) who had lately addressed them, seemed to have an objection to Members of Parliament given pledges; but he could inform him, that the Lord High Chancellor, and every man who accepted a situation under Government, gave a pledge, by taking the oaths of allegiance and supremacy. Therefore, pledges were the doctrine of the law and the constitution. The number of military and naval officers in the House of Commons had grown out of that system, which was called the Rotten-borough Parliament. If the people had the fair exercise of the elective franchise, there would be very few Officers

sitting in Parliament, liable to be sent out of the country at the shortest notice. The least the people could expect was, that they should not suffer by it. The Officer, if ordered abroad, had his option. Let him, if he pleased, pursue the career of honour and ambition; but let not the people lose sight of the necessity of having their Representatives ready on the spot, prepared to oppose every attack on their liberties. He need scarcely point out to them the encroachments which had been made on their liberties, when they saw their country under a military Government, and the law carried into execution by the point of the bayonet. Major C. then entered at some length into the circumstances attending the arrest of thirty-eight persons, who had assembled at Manchester, to petition for Reform—these men, he said, were falsely accused by an informer, and the friends of despotism eagerly darted on their prey. They were sent to gaol; not by the ordinary operation of the law, not by the intervention of constables, but by the agency of a military force. They, however, gained a victory over their false accuser, and the current of Reform was only impeded for the moment. When this was the case, when such base acts were publicly known, was it not important that their Representatives should be ready to protect their rights? He, therefore, thought this pledge was not too much to expect from a Member of Parliament, and he would not give his vote for any man who would not accede to it.

Mr. HARRIS said, if this pledge were demanded of Lord Cochrane, and he agreed to it, he certainly would not vote for him. He was astonished to hear such a proposition; it went to drive Lord Cochrane from a noble profession, to which he was an honour.

Mr. RICHARDSON was of opinion, from the nature of the proposed condition, that there was not a sincere wish to elect Lord Cochrane. If such a pledge were tendered to his Lordship, and he accepted of it, he (Mr. R.) would neither vote for him, nor would he ask a single friend to do so.

After a few words from the CHAIRMAN and Major CARTWRIGHT, the Resolution proposed by the latter was carried.

The sixth Resolution was then agreed to. Mr. HARRIS next proposed—

“That the Committee who conducted the Election for Westminster in 1807, be requested to carry the Resolutions of this Meeting into effect, and the individuals of

this Meeting will give their best assistance to the same end."—Agreed to.

The thanks of the Meeting were then voted to the Chairman, after which the assembly immediately broke up.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

BATTLE OF SALAMANCA.

(Continued from page 446.)

army, or such as belonged to individuals who had no right to have them, or to such who had a greater number than they are allowed. I did not hesitate making use of this means, the imminent interest of the army and the success of the operations being at stake. I therefore ordered the seizure of such horses as were under this predicament, and I likewise seized a great number which were with a convoy coming from Andalusia, all upon estimation of their value, and making payment for them. This measure, executed with security, gave us, in the space of eight days, 1,000 more horsemen, and my cavalry united amounted to more than 3,000 combatants. Meanwhile I no less hoped to receive succours from the army of the North, which continued its promises, the performance of which appeared to have commenced, but of which we have not hitherto seen any effect.—The 8th division of the army of Portugal occupied the Asturias; these troops were completely isolated from the army; by the evacuation of the provinces of Leon and Benavente they were without succours, and without any communication with the Army of the North; because on the one side the Trindadores, who should have come from Bayonne, could not be sent to Gijon; and, on the other side, the General in Chief of the Army of the North, although he had formally promised so doing, had caused himself to be dispensed with, throwing a bridge over the Deba, and there to establish posts. This division had been able to bring only very little ammunition, for want of means of carriage, and this was in part consumed; nor did they know how to replace it: its position might every moment become more critical, and the enemy seriously occupied himself with it, inasmuch as if it were still thus isolated, it would remain entirely ignorant of the important events which were taking place in the plains of Castille. General Bonnet, calculating on this state of matters, and considering, according to the

knowledge he has of the country, that it is much easier to enter, than depart out of it, according as the enemy might oppose the entrance or departure, he decided on evacuating this province, and on taking a position at Reynosa; there having learnt that the Army of Portugal was in presence of the English army, and that they were on the point of engaging, he did not hesitate on putting himself in motion and re-joining it.—Strongly impressed with this important succour and the augmentation which my cavalry was about to receive, not having learnt any thing positive further concerning the Army of the North, and being besides informed of the march of the army of Galicia, which in the course of a few days would necessarily force me to send a detachment to repulse them, I thought it my duty to act without delay. I had to fear that my situation, which was become much ameliorated, might change by losing time, whilst that of the enemy would, by the nature of things, become better every moment; I therefore resolved on repassing the Douro, but this operation is difficult and delicate, it cannot be undertaken without much art and circumspection in presence of an army in condition for battle. I employed the days of the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th July in making a number of marches and counter-marches, which deceived the enemy. I feigned an intention to turn by Toro and turned by Tordesillas, making an extremely rapid march. This movement succeeded so well that the whole army could pass the river, move to a distance from it, and form itself without meeting a single enemy.—On the 17th the army took a position at Navarre del Rey. The enemy, who was in full march for Toro, could only bring two divisions with celerity to Tordesillas de la Orden; the others were recalled from different parts, to recruit themselves. On the 18th, in the morning, we found these two divisions at Tordesillas de la Orden. As they did not expect to find the whole army joined, they thought they might, without peril, gain some time. Nevertheless, when they saw our masses coming forward, they endeavoured to effect their retreat to a plain which commanded a village to which we were marching. We had already reached them. If I had had a cavalry superior or equal to that of the enemy, these two divisions would have been destroyed. We did not, however, pursue them the less, and with all possible vigour, and during

three hours' march, they were overpowered by the fire of our artillery, which I caused to take them in the rear and flank, and which they could with difficulty answer, and protected by their numerous cavalry, they divided themselves to reascend the Guarena, in order to pass it with greater facility.—Arrived upon the heights of the valley of Guarena, we saw that a portion of the English army was formed upon the left bank of that river. In that place the heights of that valley are very rugged, and the valley a middling breadth. Whether it was necessary for the troops to approach the water on account of the excessive heat, or whether it was from some other cause of which I am ignorant, the English General had placed the greater part of them in the bottom of the valley, within half cannon shot of the heights of which we were masters; I therefore, upon arriving, immediately ordered a battery of 40 pieces of artillery to be placed, which in a moment forced the enemy to retire, after having left a great number of killed and wounded upon the place. The army marched in two columns, and I had given the command of the right column, distant from that of the left three quarters of a league, to General Claussel. Arrived upon this ground, General Claussel, having few people before him, he thought he was able to seize upon the two rising grounds upon the left bank of the Guarena, and preserve them; but this attack was made with few troops; his troops had not halted, and scarcely formed; the enemy perceived it, marched upon the troops, which he had thus thrown in advance, and forced them to retreat.—In this battle, which was of short duration, we experienced some loss. The division of dragoons which supported the infantry, vigorously charged all the English cavalry; but General Carree, a little too far advanced from the 13th regiment, fell into the enemy's power.—The army remained in its position all the night of the 19th; it even remained in it all the day of the 20th. The extreme heat, and the fatigue experienced on the 18th, rendered this necessary to assemble the stragglers.—At four in the evening the army resumed their arms, and defiled by the left to proceed up the Guarena, and take a position in front of Almo. My intention was, at the same time, to threaten the enemy, and continue to proceed up the Guarena, in order to pass it with facility, or if the enemy marched in force upon the

higher Guarena, to return by a rapid movement upon the position they should have abandoned. The enemy followed my movement. On the 20th, before day, the army was in motion to ascend the Guarena.—The advanced guard rapidly passed that river at that part where it is but a river, and occupied the commencement of an immense piece of ground, which continues without any undulation to nearly Salamanca. The enemy endeavoured to occupy the same ground, but could not succeed: then he attempted to follow a parallel rising ground, connected with the position they had just quitted, and which every where offered them a position, provided I should have marched towards them. The two armies thus marched parallel with all possible celerity, always keeping their masses connected, in order to be every moment prepared for battle. The enemy thinking to be beforehand with us at the village of Cantalpeno, directed a column upon that village, in the hope of being before us upon the rising ground which commands it, and towards which we marched; but their expectations were deceived. The light cavalry, which I sent thither, and the 8th division, which was at the head of the column, marched so rapidly that the enemy were obliged to abandon it. Besides the road from the other plain approaching too close to ours, and that which we had having the advantage of commanding it, with some pieces of cannon, judiciously placed, greatly annoyed the enemy, for a great part of the army was obliged to defile under this cannon, and the remainder was obliged to repass the mountain to avoid it. At last I put the dragoons in the enemy's track.—The enormous number of stragglers which were left behind would have given us an opportunity of making 3,000 prisoners, had there been a greater proportion between our cavalry and theirs, but the latter disposed so as to arrest our pursuit, to press the march of the infantry by blows from the flat sides of their sabres, and to convey those who could no longer march, prevented us. Nevertheless, there fell into our hand between 3 and 400 men and some baggage. In the evening the army encamped upon the heights of Aldea Rubia, having its posts upon the Tormes. The enemy re-occupied the position of San Christoval.—On the 21st, having been informed that the enemy did not occupy Alba de Tormes, I threw a garrison into it. The same day I passed the river in

two columns, taking my direction by the skirts of the woods, and establishing my camp between Alba de Tormes and Salamanca. My object in taking this direction was to continue the movement by my left, in order to drive the enemy from the neighbourhood of Salamanca and fight them with greater advantages. I depended upon taking a good defensive position, in which the enemy could undertake nothing against me, and, in short, come near enough to them to take advantage of the first faults they might make and vigorously attack them.—— On the 22d, in the morning, I went upon the heights of Calbaraca de Azzeva to reconnoitre the enemy. I found a division which had just arrived there, others were in march for the same place. Some firing took place, for the purpose of occupying the posts of observation, of which we respectively remained masters. Every thing announced that it was the enemy's intention to occupy the position of Tesares, which was a league in the rear of that in which he then was, distant a league and a half from Salamanca. They, however, assembled considerable forces upon this point, and as their movement upon Tesares might be difficult, if all the French army was in sight, I thought it right to have it ready to act as circumstances required.——There were between us and the English some isolated points, called the Aropiles. I ordered General Bonnet to occupy that which belonged to the position we ought to take; his troops did so with promptitude and dexterity. The enemy ordered theirs to be occupied, but it was commanded by ours at 250 toises distance. I had destined this point, in the event of there being a general movement by the left, and a battle taking place, to be the part and point of support of the right to all the army.——The first division had orders to occupy and defend the plain of Calbaraca, which is protected by a large and deep ravine. The third division was in the second line, destined to support it, and the 2d, 4th, 5th, and 6th were at the head of the wood *en masse*, behind the position of Aropiles, and could march equally on all sides, whilst the 7th division occupied the left head of the wood, which formed a point extremely uneven, and of very difficult access, and which I had lined with 20 pieces of artillery. The light cavalry was charged to clear the left, and place itself in advance of the 7th division. The dragoons remained in the second line to the right of the army. Such were the dispositions made towards the middle of the day.

——The enemy had his troops parallel to me, extending his right by leaning towards the mountain of Tesares, which always appeared to be his point of retreat.——There was in front of the plain occupied by the artillery another vast plain, easy of defence, and which had a more immediate effect on the enemy's movements. The possession of this place gave me the means, in case I should have manœuvred towards the evening, of carrying myself on the enemy's communications on Tamames. This post, which was otherwise well occupied, was impregnable, and in itself completed the position which I had taken. It was, besides, indispensably necessary to occupy it, seeing that the enemy had reinforced his centre, from whence he might push forward *en masse* on this plain, and commence his attack by taking this important point.—— In consequence, I gave orders to the 5th division to take position on the right extremity of this plain, the fire from which exactly crossed that from Aropiles, to the 7th division, to place itself in a second line to support this, to the 2d to hold itself in reserve to the latter, and to the 6th to occupy the plain at the head of the wood, where a large number of pieces of artillery were yet remaining.——I gave like orders to General Bonnet to cause the 122d to occupy a point situated between the great plain and the point of Aropiles, which defended the entrance of the village of Aropiles; and, finally, I gave orders to General Boyer, Commandant of the Dragoons, to leave a regiment to clear the right of the General, and to push the three other regiments to the front of the wood, on the flank of the second division, in such manner as to be able, in case the enemy should attack the plain, to attack them by the right of this plain, in the mean while that the light cavalry should charge his left. The most part of these movements were performed with irregularity. The fifth division, after having taken the post assigned to them, extended itself on its left without any cause or reason. The seventh division, which had orders to support it, marched to its position, and, in short, the second division was still in the rear. I felt all the consequences which might result from all these irregularities, and I resolved on remedying them myself on the spot, which was a very easy matter, the enemy as yet not having made any movement at all. At the same time I received the report of the enemy having caused fresh troops to pass from his left to his right; I ordered the 3d and 4th divi-

sions to march by the skirts of the wood, in order that I might dispose them as I found needful. It was half past four o'clock, and I went to the place which was to be the object of a serious dispute, but at this moment a shell struck me, and broke my right arm, and made two large wounds in my right side. I thus became incapable of taking any kind of part in the command.

—The previous time which I should have employed in rectifying the placing of the troops on the left, was fruitlessly passed, the absence of the Commander gives birth to anarchy, and from thence proceeds disorder; meanwhile the time was running away without the enemy undertaking any thing. At length, at five o'clock, the enemy, judging that the situation was favourable, attacked this ill-formed left wing with impetuosity. The divisions engaged repulsed the enemy, and were themselves repulsed in their turn, but they acted without concert and without method. The division which I had called to sustain the first, found themselves in the situation of taking part in the combat without having foreseen it.—Every General makes extraordinary efforts to supply by his own particular dispositions, those which are in the whole requisite, but if he can attain it in part, yet he cannot effect it completely. The artillery covered itself with glory, performed prodigies of valour, and in the midst of our losses, caused the enemy to suffer enormously. He directed his attacks against Aropiles, which was defended by the brave 120th regiment, and was there repulsed, leaving more than eight hundred dead on the spot. At length the army retires, evacuates the plains, and retires to the skirts of the wood. There the enemy makes fresh efforts. The division of Foy, which, by the nature of the business, was charged with the covering of the retrograde movement, was attacked with vigour, and constantly repulsed the enemy. This division merits the greatest eulogy, as does likewise its General. From this moment the retreat was effected towards Alba de Tormes, without being disturbed by the enemy. Our loss amounts to about 6,000 men hors de combat.—We have lost nine pieces of cannon, which being dismounted, could not be carried off. All the rest of the baggage, all the park of artillery, all the materials belonging to the army have been brought away.—It is difficult, M. le Duc, to express to you the different sentiments which agitated me at the fatal moment when the wound which I received caused

my removal from the army. I would with delight have exchanged this wound for the certainty of receiving a mortal stroke at the close of the day, to have preserved the faculty of command, so well did I know the importance of the events which had just taken place, and how necessary the presence of the Commander-in-Chief was at the moment when the shock of the two armies appeared to be preparing, to give the whole direction to the troops and to appoint their movements. Thus one unfortunate moment has destroyed the result of six weeks of wise combinations, of methodical movements, the issue of which had hitherto appeared certain, and of which every thing seemed to presage to us that we should reap the fruit. On the 23d the army made its retreat from Alba de Tormes on Penaranda, taking its direction towards the Douro. The whole of the enemy's cavalry harassed our rear, composed of the cavalry of the first division. This cavalry fell back, and left the division too much exposed, but it formed itself in squares to resist the enemy. One of them was broken; the others resisted, and especially that of the 69th, which killed 200 of the enemy's horse, by the push of the bayonet. After this time they made no attempt on us.—General Clausell has the command of the army, and takes such measures as circumstances require. I am going to have myself transported to Burgos, where I hope by repose and care taken, to recover of the severe wounds I have received, and which afflict me more from the dire influence which they have had on the success of the army, than from the sufferings which they have caused me to endure.—I cannot do sufficient justice to the bravery with which the Generals and Colonels have fought; to the good disposition which animated them in that difficult circumstance. I ought particularly to mention General Bonnet, whose reputation has been so long established. I should likewise name General Taubin, who commanded the sixth division; General Clausell, though wounded, did not quit the field of battle, but to the end gave an example of great personal bravery. The General of Artillery, Terlet, and Colonel Digéon, commanding the reserve of artillery, particularly distinguished themselves.—In this day, unfortunate as it has been, there are a multitude of traits worthy of being noticed, and which honour the French name. I will collect them, and solicit from his Majesty rewards for the brave men who have deserved them.—I ought not to de-

fer mentioning the gallant conduct of the brave Sub-Lieutenant Guillemat, of the 118th regiment, who sprung into the enemy's ranks to obtain a flag, which he seized, after having cut off the arm of the person who carried it; he has brought this flag into our ranks, notwithstanding the several bayonet wounds he has received.—We have to regret the loss of the General of Division Fuey, dead of his wounds; of General Thomieres, killed upon the field of battle; and of General Desgravurs. Generals Bonnet and Clausell, and the General of Brigade Menne, are wounded.—I beg your Excellency to receive the assurance of my high consideration.

(Signed with the left hand)

THE MARSHAL DUKE OF RAGUSA.

After the first movements of the English army, his Catholic Majesty, under whose orders were placed all the French armies in Spain, was determined to unite all the disposable troops he had belonging to the army of the centre, to march at the same time with the Marshal Duke of Ragusa against the enemy.—On the 20th July his Majesty had in effect assembled a considerable corps, at the head of which he had advanced between the 21st and 24th of July to Arevalo.—The retreat of the Army of Portugal having taken place before his Majesty could join it, he was obliged to confine himself to checking Lord Wellington's army, which he has successfully done by this diversion. The greater part of the enemy's forces having marched upon the army of the centre, his Catholic Majesty at first thought of covering Madrid, and sending from it the persons most attached to his service, and the most important objects. A considerable convoy, escorted by Darmagnac and Palombini's divisions, have been fortunately conducted towards Valencia.—On the 18th August the King had his head-quarters at Villa Robledo. The intention of his Majesty was to unite the troops of the Army of the Centre, according to circumstances, either with the Army of the South or the Army of Arragon, to fight the English with advantage.

SEVILLE TAKEN.—DOWNING-STREET, Sept. 23.—*A Dispatch, of which the following is a Copy, has been this day received at Earl Bathurst's Office, addressed to his Lordship by Major-General Cooke, dated Cadiz, Aug. 30, 1812.*

CADIZ, Aug. 30, 1812.

My Lord,—Since my letter of yester-

day's date, reporting the entry into Seville of the allied corps under General Le Cruz and Colonel Skerrett; I have received a dispatch from the latter, of which I transmit a copy herewith, and a return of the killed and wounded of the British detachment. I have the honour to be, &c.

GEO. COOKE, Major-General.

SEVILLE, Aug. 28, 1812:

Sir,—I have the honour to report the movements of the detachment under my orders since the date of my last. The result of which, the capture of the city of Seville by assault, defended by eight French battalions and two regiments of dragoons intrenched, will, I trust, be considered as honourable to the allied arms and serviceable to the cause of Spain.—On the 24th instant, General Cruz Mourgeon, commanding the Spanish troops, and myself, judged it advisable to make a forward movement on Seville; for this purpose it was advisable to force the enemy's corps of observation of three hundred and fifty cavalry and two hundred infantry, at St. Lucar la Mayor. I marched from Manzanilla with eight hundred troops, composed of the 1st regiment of guards, the 87th, and the Portuguese regiment, Brigadier-General Downie, accompanied with six hundred Spanish troops. The Spanish column attacked on the right, and the British and Portuguese on the left. The French were driven through the streets with precipitation, leaving some killed, wounded, and prisoners. We took post at San Lucar without the loss of a man.—On the 26th inst. Gen. Cruz and myself having judged that it would be attended with the most beneficial effects, both on the public opinion and in saving the city from being plundered, if the French could be precipitated in their retreat from Seville; the allied troops, in consequence, marched for this purpose, and arrived at the heights of Castillejos de la Cuesta, immediately above Seville, on the morning of the 27th, at six o'clock.—The Spanish troops formed our advance. The French advance was driven in; the cavalry retired, leaving the infantry in the plain, which last were charged by the Spanish cavalry, who made many prisoners.—The Spanish troops attacked a redoubt on our left, and lost a good many men. The columns advanced into the plain, by which movement this redoubt was turned, and its communication cut off; the Spanish troops under General Cruz took the right, and made a detour to arrive and attack on that flank of Triana (the suburbs of Seville). I ordered the redoubt to be

masked by a detachment of the 20th Portuguese regiment, and advanced a field-piece with some troops, to keep in check the enemy's fire at one of the gates of the city opposite to us, and after giving sufficient time for the Spanish column to arrive, the British and Portuguese troops advanced to the attack in front; the cavalry and artillery advanced at a gallop, supported by the grenadiers of the guards, and the infantry following.—The enemy abandoned the gate: we entered the suburbs, and advanced near to the bridge of Seville with as much rapidity as possible, in hopes of preventing its destruction, which would have rendered it extremely difficult for us to succeed. We were checked by the fire of grape-shot and musketry at the turning of the street. The grenadiers of the guards advanced to our support, and drove every thing before them. At this moment part of the Spanish column arrived; we advanced to the bridge under a heavy fire; Captain Cadoux, of the 95th, with great judgment, made a flank movement on our left; Captain Roberts, of the artillery, brought up with rapidity two guns; a heavy fire of cannon and musketry was soon brought to bear on the enemy, who were driven from their position on the other side of the river, and from the bridge, which they had only in part destroyed. The grenadiers of the guards, and some Spanish troops, led the columns that crossed the bridge. A general rout ensued, and the enemy were driven through the streets, which were strewed with their dead, and pursued at all points, leaving behind them valuable captures of horses, baggage, and money.—It is difficult for me to express the joy of the people of Seville. The inhabitants, under the fire of the French, brought planks to lay across the bridge; and their acclamations and vociferous marks of joy, added to the immense crowd, rendered it extremely difficult for the officers to advance through the streets with their columns.—The vast extent of this city, the exhausted state of the troops who had advanced in double quick time for three miles, and the want of cavalry, rendered it impossible to continue the pursuit beyond the town. Such was the rapidity of our attack, that this victory over a French division, and the passage of a bridge which the enemy had materially destroyed, with his infantry and artillery, formed on the banks of the river, was achieved with a loss that appears almost incredible.—I have only to regret the loss of one officer,

Lieutenant Brett, royal artillery, who was killed, gallantly fighting his gun at the bridge. The intrepidity of this valuable officer was observed by the whole detachment.—The loss of the enemy must have been very great. We have taken several officers, and, I believe, near two hundred prisoners.—The conduct of every officer and soldier has been above praise; where all have behaved well, it is difficult to distinguish; I must, however, mention the detachment of the King's German Legion, commanded by Cornet Wieboldt; the artillery, by Captain Roberts; detachment of 95th, by Captain Cadoux; and the grenadiers of the 1st regiment of guards, by Captain Thomas. To Colonel Maitland, 1st regiment of guards (second in command), I am much indebted from the commencement of this service; and in the attack of Seville his military talents, intrepidity, and zeal, were particularly conspicuous. I am also much indebted to Lieutenant Colonel Colquitt, commanding a detachment of the 1st regiment of guards; to Lieutenant Colonel Prior, commanding a detachment 20th Portuguese regiment; and to Major Macclain, commanding a detachment 87th regiment.—The exertions of Captain Wynyard (Coldstream Guards), Assistant Adjutant General, and Lieutenant Reid, Royal Staff Corps, Staff Officers attached to the detachment, have been indefatigable. Captain Bunbury, 20th Portuguese regiment, Brigade Major, and Lieutenant Smith, Royal Engineers, were at this time detached on other service.—During the whole of this attack, our allies, the Spaniards, have rivalled the conduct of the British and Portuguese troops; and General Cruz Murgeon, by his military talents and bravery, has principally contributed to the successful result of the day.—Enclosed is a return of the killed and wounded.—During last night a division of 7 or 8,000 French troops passed by. Our attack has saved the city from the devastations and contributions with which it was threatened.—Captain Wynyard is the bearer of this dispatch, who will inform you of any further particulars you may require.

I have the honour, &c.

J. B. SKERRETT.

P. S. A return of the guns and military stores taken, will be sent as soon as the quantity can be ascertained. Two of the field-pieces which the enemy advanced against us, fell into our hands.

NORTHERN WAR.—*Fifteenth Bulletin of the Grand French Army.*—*Slawkovo, 27th Aug. 1812.*

The General of division Zayoneheick, who commanded a Polish division at the battle of Smolensk, was wounded. The behaviour of the Polish corps at Smolensk astonished the Russians, who used to despise them. They were struck with their steadiness, and the superiority which they displayed over themselves.—At the battles of Smolensk and Valontina, the enemy lost twenty Generals killed, wounded, or taken, and a very great number of officers. The number of men killed, taken, or wounded, on these occasions, may amount to from 25 to 30,000 men.—On the day after the battle of Valontina, his Majesty gave the 12th and 21st regiments of infantry of the line, and the 7th regiment of light infantry, a number of decorations of the Legion of Honour, to be bestowed on the Captains, Lieutenants, Subalterns, and Soldiers. The selections were made on the field, in a circle before the Emperor, and were confirmed with acclamations by the troops.—The following are the names of those who obtained this honourable distinction:—[Here follows a list of the respective individuals.]—Number of decorations granted, to the 12th regiment 30; 21st do. 25; 7th light do. 32—Total, 87.—The enemy's army, in retiring, burn the bridges and destroy the roads, in order to retard the march of the French army as much as possible. On the 21st, they had repassed the Borysthènes at Slob Pniwa, always closely followed by our advanced guard.—The commercial establishments at Smolensk were quite untouched on the Borysthènes, in a fine suburb, to which the Russians set fire, for the sole purpose of retarding our march a single hour. Never was war conducted with so much inhumanity: the Russians treat their own country as they would that of an enemy. The country is fine, and abundantly supplied with every thing. The roads are admirable.—Marshal the Duke of Tarentum continues to destroy Dunabourg. The wooden materials, palisades, &c. which were immense, served to make feu-de-joie in honour of the 15th of August.—Prince Schwartzenberg writes from Ossiati, on the 17th, that his advanced guard has pursued the enemy on the road to Divin, that he has taken some hundreds of prisoners, and obliged the enemy to burn his baggage. General Bianchi, however, who commands the advanced guard, has succeeded in seiz-

ing 800 baggage-waggons, which the enemy could neither carry off nor destroy. The Russian army, under Tormasow, has lost almost all its baggage.—The equipage for the siege of Riga has begun to move from Tilsit for the Dwina.—General St. Cyr has taken a position on the Drissa. The rout of the enemy at the battle of Polotsk on the 18th was complete. The brave Bavarian General Derooy was wounded on the field of honour, at the age of 72, after nearly 60 years' service. His Majesty has nominated him a Count of the Empire, with a revenue of 30,000 francs. The Bavarian corps behaved with much bravery. His Majesty has granted it rewards and honours.—The enemy gave out that he would make a stand at Doroghobouj. He had, according to custom, thrown up earth and constructed batteries. The army having shewn itself in order of battle, the Emperor repaired thither; but the enemy's General thought better of it, beat a retreat, and abandoned Doroghobouj, a city containing ten thousand souls and eight steeples. Head-quarters were there on the 26th, and on the 27th at Slawkovo. The advanced guard is close to Viasma.—The Viceroy manœuvres on the left, at two leagues from the great road; the Prince of Eckmuhl on the great road; and Prince Poniatowski on the left bank of the Osma.—The capture of Smolensk appears to have had a sad effect on the spirits of the Russians. It was called *Smolensk-the-sacred; Smolensk-the-strong; the key of Moscow*; besides a thousand other common sayings. *Whoever has Smolensk, has Moscow*, say the peasants.—The heat is excessive; it has not rained for a month.—The Duke of Belluno, with the 9th corps, 30,000 strong, has set out from Tilsit for Wilna. This corps is to form the reserve.

Sixteenth Bulletin of the Grand Army.
Viasma, Aug. 31.

The head-quarters of the Emperor were, on the 27th, at Slawkovo; on the 28th, near Senlovo; on the 29th, in a Castle one league in the rear of Viasma; and on the 30th at Viasma; the army marching in three columns—the left, formed by the Viceroy, proceeding by Kanoochkino, Znamenкои, Kostereckovo, and Novoe—the centre formed by the King of Naples, the corps of the Prince of Eckmuhl, the Duke of Elchingen and the Guards marching on the grand road, and the left by the Prince Poniatowski marching on the left bank of the Osna by Volosk, Louchkè,

Pokroskoe, and Slonckino.——On the 27th the enemy wishing to rest on the Osma, opposite the village of Riebke, took a position with his rear-guard. The King of Naples directed his cavalry on the left of the enemy, which amounted to 7 or 8,000 cavalry. Several charges took place, all to our advantage. A battalion of the enemy was penetrated by the 4th regiment of Lancers. A hundred prisoners were the
(To be continued.)

SURRENDER OF THE AMERICAN ARMY.

London Gazette Extraordinary, Oct. 6.

War Department, Downing-street, Oct. 6, 1812.

Captain Gore, Aid-de-Camp to Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Governor in Chief of His Majesty's Provinces in North America, arrived this morning with dispatches from the Lieutenant-General, addressed to Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, of which the following is an extract and a copy:—

Montreal, Aug. 16.

My Lord,—I feel the greatest satisfaction in transmitting to your Lordship a letter which I have this day received by express from Major-General Brock, announcing to me the surrender of Fort Detroit, on the 16th inst. by Brigadier-General Hull, with the army under his command, exceeding two thousand five hundred men, together with twenty-five pieces of ordnance.——In my dispatches of the 17th and 24th inst. I had the honour of detailing to your Lordship the operations which had taken place in Upper Canada, in consequence of the invasion of that province by the army of the United States. Brigadier-General Hull having crossed the Detroit river on the 12th of last month, with 2,500 men, consisting of regular cavalry and infantry, and militia, bringing with him several field-pieces; and having driven in the militia towards Amherstburg, first advanced to Sandwich, and afterwards approached Amherstburg, with a part of his army to the river Canard, about five miles from the fort, where he was foiled in three attempts to cross that river, and suffered a considerable loss. The garrison of Amherstburg consisted at that time of a subaltern's detachment of the Royal Artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Troughton; of a detachment of 300 men of the 41st regiment, under the command of Captain Muir; and of about as many of

the Militia; the whole under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Saint George, Inspecting Field Officer of Militia in the district.——General Brock, relying upon the strong assurances I had given him, of a reinforcement as prompt and as effectual as the circumstances under which I was placed by this new war would permit me to send, adopted the most vigorous measures for the safety of that part of the frontier which had been attacked. In these measures he was most opportunely aided by the fortunate surrender of Fort Michilimachinack, which giving spirit and confidence to the Indian tribes in its neighbourhood, part of whom assisted in its capture, determined them to advance upon the rear and flanks of the American army, as soon as they heard that it had entered the province.——The certainty of the expected reinforcements, and the weakness of the enemy on the Niagara frontier, had in the mean time induced General Brock to detach from the garrison of Fort George 50 men of the 41st regiment, under Captain Chambers, into the interior of the country, for the purpose of collecting such of the Indians and Militia as might be ready to join him, and afterwards advancing upon the left flank of the enemy. Sixty men of the same regiment were also detached from that garrison to Amherstburg, and 40 to Long Point, to collect the Militia in that quarter. Having made these dispositions, and having previously sent forward Colonel Proctor, of the 41st regiment, to Amherstburg, where he arrived and assumed the command on the 26th of last month, General Brock proceeded himself from York on the 5th instant, for Fort St. George and Long Point on Lake Erie, which last place he left on the 8th following for Amherstburg, with forty rank and file of the 41st regiment, and 260 of the Militia forces.——Whilst General Brock was thus hastening his preparations for the relief of Amherstburg, the prospects of the American army under General Hull were becoming every day more unfavourable, and their situation more critical. The intelligence of the fall of Michilimachinack had reached them, which they knew must expose them to an attack of the Indians on one quarter, at the same time that they were threatened on another by the force approaching under Captain Chambers. An Indian tribe of the Wyandots, whom they had in vain attempted to bribe, aided by a detachment of the 41st regiment from Amherstburg, had succeeded in cutting off their supplies on the opposite side of the

river, and in intercepting their dispatches, which described in very strong terms their apprehensions and despondency. The losses they had sustained in their different actions upon the Canard river, as well as those for protecting their supplies, together with the mode of warfare pursued by the Indians, had greatly discouraged and dispirited them, and had convinced General Hull how hopeless any attempt would be to storm Fort Amherstburg, without great reinforcements and a battering train.—It was under these circumstances, at this critical period, and when the enemy were beginning to consult their security by intrenching themselves, that General Brock entered Amherstburg with a reinforcement, which he was fortunately enabled to do on the 12th instant, without the smallest molestation, in consequence of our decided naval superiority on the lakes. To his active and intelligent mind, the advantages which the enemy's situation afforded him over them, even with his very inferior force, became immediately apparent; and that he has not failed most effectually to avail himself of those favourable circumstances, your Lordship will, I trust, be satisfied, from the letter which I have the honour of transmitting.—Having thus brought to your Lordship's view the different circumstances which have led to the successful termination of the campaign on the western frontier of Upper Canada, I cannot withhold from Major-General Brock the tribute of applause so justly due to him for his distinguished conduct on this occasion, or omit to recommend him, through your Lordship, to the favourable consideration of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, for the great ability and judgment with which he has planned, and the promptitude, energy, and fortitude with which he has effected the preservation of Upper Canada, with the sacrifice of so little British blood in accomplishing so important a service.—My Aid-de-camp, Captain Gore, will have the honour of delivering to your Lordship this dispatch; and, as he is well qualified to give your Lordship information respecting the military resources of this command, I shall beg leave to refer your Lordship to him for farther particulars. I have the honour, &c.

GEORGE PREVOST.

Head-quarters, Detroit, Aug. 16, 1812.

Sir,—I hasten to apprise your Excellency of the capture of this very important post. Two thousand five hundred troops have this

day surrendered prisoners of war, and about twenty-five pieces of ordnance have been taken without the sacrifice of a drop of British blood. I had not more than seven hundred troops, including militia, and about six hundred Indians, to accomplish this service. When I detail my good fortune, your Excellency will be astonished. I have been admirably supported by Colonel Proctor, the whole of my Staff, and I may justly say every individual under my command.

Believe me, &c.

ISAAC BROCK, Major-General.

To his Excellency Lieut.-General
Sir George Prevost, Bart.

Head-quarters, Montreal, Sept. 1. 1812.

My Lord,—Since I had the honour of transmitting to your Lordship my letter of the 26th ult. in charge of my Aid-de-Camp, Captain Gore, I have received from Major-General Brock a dispatch, of which the enclosed is a copy, containing the particulars of Brigadier-General Hull's invasion of Upper Canada, which has terminated most gloriously to His Majesty's arms, in that officer's defeat and surrender, as a prisoner of war, with the whole of the north-western army, together with the fort Detroit, and 33 pieces of ordnance.—I forward this dispatch express, in the expectation of its reaching Captain Gore previously to his leaving Canada, which, with the colours of the 4th United States' regiment accompanying it, I trust that officer will have the honour of delivering to your Lordship.—I have the honour to be, &c.

GEORGE PREVOST.

To the Right Hon. Earl Bathurst.

Head-quarters, Detroit, August 17.

Sir,—I have had the honour of informing your Excellency, that the enemy effected his passage across the Detroit river on the 12th ult. without opposition, and that after establishing himself at Sandwich, he had ravaged the country as far as Moravia town. Some skirmishes occurred between the troops under Lieut.-Col. St. George and the enemy upon the river Canard, which uniformly terminated in his being repulsed with loss. I judged it proper to detach a force down the river Thames, capable of acting in conjunction with the garrison of Amherstburg offensively; but Captain Chambers, whom I had appointed to direct this detachment, experienced difficulties that frustrated my intentions. The

(*To be continued.*)

ENGLISH LIBERTY OF THE PRESS,

As illustrated in the Prosecution and Punishment of

WILLIAM COBBETT.

479]

IN order that my countrymen and that the world may not be deceived, duped, and cheated upon this subject, I, WILLIAM COBBETT, of Botley, in Hampshire, put upon record the following facts; to wit: That, on the 24th June, 1809, the following article was published in a London news-paper, called the *COURIER*:—"The Mutiny amongst the *LO-CAL MILITIA*, which broke out at Ely, was *fortunately* suppressed on Wednesday by the arrival of four squadrons of the *GERMAN LEGION CAVALRY* from Bury, under the command of General Auckland. Five of the ringleaders were tried by a Court-Martial, and sentenced to receive 500 lashes each, part of which punishment they received on Wednesday, and a part was remitted. A stoppage for their knapsacks was the ground of the complaint that excited this mutinous spirit; which occasioned the men to surround their officers, and demand what they deemed their arrears. The first division of the German Legion halted yesterday at Newmarket on their return to Bury."—That, on the 1st July, 1809, I published, in the *Political Register*, an article censuring, in the strongest terms, these proceedings; that, for so doing, the Attorney General prosecuted, as seditious libellers, and by *Ex-Officio* Information, me, and also my printer, my publisher, and one of the principal retailers of the *Political Register*; that I was brought to trial on the 15th June, 1810, and was, by a Special Jury, that is to say, by 12 men out of 48 appointed by the Master of the Crown Office, found guilty; that, on the 20th of the same month, I was compelled to give bail for my appearance to receive judgment; and that, as I came up from Botley (to which place I had returned to my family and my farm on the evening of the 15th), a Tipstaff went down from London in order to seize me, personally; that, on the 9th of July, 1810, I, together with my printer, publisher, and the newsman, were brought into the Court of King's Bench to receive judgment; that the three former were sentenced to be imprisoned for some months in the King's Bench prison; that I was sentenced to be imprisoned for two years in Newgate, the great receptacle for malefactors, and the front of which is the scene of numerous hangings in the course of every year; that the part of the prison in which I was sentenced to be confined is sometimes inhabited by felons, that felons were actually in it at the time I entered it; that one man was taken out of it to be transported in about 48 hours after I was put into the same yard with him; and that it is the place of confinement for men guilty of unnatural crimes, of whom there are four in it at this time; that, besides this imprisonment, I was sentenced to pay a thousand pounds TO THE KING, and to give security for my good behaviour for seven years, myself in the sum of 3,000 pounds, and

[480

two sureties in the sum of 1,000 pounds each; that the whole of this sentence has been executed upon me, that I have been imprisoned the two years, have paid the thousand pounds TO THE KING, and have given the bail, Timothy Brown and Peter Walker, Esqrs. being my sureties; that the Attorney General was Sir Vicary Gibbs, the Judge who sat at the trial Lord Ellenborough, the four Judges who sat at passing sentence Ellenborough, Grose, Le Blanc, and Bailey; and that the jurors were, Thomas Rhodes of Hampstead Road, John Davis of Southampton Place, James Ellis of Tottenham Court Road, John Richards of Bayswater, Thomas Marsham of Baker Street, Robert Heathcote of High Street Marylebone, John Maud of York Place Marylebone, George Bagster of Church Terrace Pancras, Thomas Taylor of Red Lion Square, David Deane of St. John Street, William Palmer of Upper Street Islington, Henry Favre of Pall Mall; that the Prime Ministers during the time were Spencer Perceval, until he was shot by John Bellingham, and after that Robert B. Jenkinson, Earl of Liverpool; that the prosecution and sentence took place in the reign of King George the Third, and that, he having become insane during my imprisonment, the 1,000 pounds was paid to his son, the Prince Regent, in his behalf: that, during my imprisonment, I wrote and published 364 Essays and Letters upon political subjects; that, during the same time, I was visited by persons from 197 cities and towns, many of them as a sort of deputies from Societies or Clubs; that, at the expiration of my imprisonment, on the 9th of July, 1812, a great dinner was given in London for the purpose of receiving me, at which dinner upwards of 600 persons were present, and at which Sir Francis Burdett presided; that dinners and other parties were held on the same occasion in many other places in England; that, on my way home, I was received at Alton, the first town in Hampshire, with the ringing of the Church bells; that a respectable company met me and gave me a dinner at Winchester; that I was drawn from more than the distance of a mile into Botley by the people; that, upon my arrival in the village, I found all the people assembled to receive me; that I concluded the day by explaining to them the cause of my imprisonment, and by giving them clear notions respecting the flogging of the Local Militia-men at Ely, and respecting the employment of German Troops; and, finally, which is more than a compensation for my losses and all my sufferings, I am in perfect health and strength, and, though I must, for the sake of six children, feel the diminution that has been made in my property (thinking it right in me to decline the offer of a subscription), I have the consolation to see growing up three sons, upon whose hearts, I trust, all these facts will be engraven.

WM. COBBETT.

Botley, July 23, 1812.

Published by R. BAGSHAW, Brydges-Street, Covent-Garden.

LONDON: Printed by J. M'Creery, Black-Horse-Court, Fleet-street.